

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of

Lautenschlager

For: **Apparatus for Performing Chemical and Physical Processes Without
Sample Transfer Within a Microwave Radiation Field**

Serial Number: **New Application**

Filed: **New Application**

Examiner: **New Application**

Group: **New Application**

The Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

U. S. A.

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This is a preliminary amendment filed with a divisional application of United States Patent Application No. **09/362,697** in the name of the same inventor and filed herewith.

In The Specification

On page 1, below the title of the invention, please insert new paragraph --This application is a divisional application of United States Patent Application No. 09/362,697 filed July 29, 1999 which claims the benefit of United States Provisional Application No. 60/095,136 filed July 29, 1999. - -

In The Drawings

Please replace informal Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 currently on file with new formal Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 submitted herewith.

In The Claims

Please cancel claims 1 through 18 and claims 23 through 25 currently on file.

Please add claims 26-41 as follows:

26. (New) A device as defined in claim 19 wherein housing comprises a first opening for receiving fluid and second opening for extracting liquid passed through the filter.
27. (New) A device as defined in claim 26 wherein the fibres within the removable filter are pressed sufficiently to withstand at least 1 atmosphere of difference in pressure across the filter before allowing liquid to pass therethrough.
28. (New) A device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the fibres pressed into a predetermined shape are disposed proximate a lowest portion of the vessel.
29. (New) A device as defined in claim 28 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for retaining liquid solvents within the vessel during chemical processes and for allowing extraction of solvents for replacement or substitution thereof during processing.
30. (New) A device as defined in claim 29 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for digestion processes.
31. (New) A device as defined in claim 28 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for retaining liquid solvents within the vessel during chemical processes and for allowing extraction of solvents for replacement or substitution thereof between processing steps.
32. (New) A device as defined in claim 31 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for digestion processes.
33. (New) A device for preventing the passage of fluids in one mode of operation and for regulating the passage of fluids in another mode of operation therethrough comprising:

a vessel having a first opening for receiving a sample and at least partially formed of fibres pressed into a predetermined shape for filtering a liquid passing therethrough and for retaining liquid within the vessel absent a substantial pressure differential on opposing sides of the fibres in the first mode of operation and for allowing liquid to flow through the fibres in a presence of a substantial pressure differential on opposing sides of the fibres in the second mode of operation.

34. (New) A device as defined in claim 33 wherein the fibres form a removable filter, the removable filter for installation in and removal from a vessel having at least two openings therein.

35. (New) A device as defined in claim 34 wherein the fibres within the removable filter are pressed sufficiently to withstand at least 1 atmosphere of difference in pressure across the filter before allowing liquid to pass therethrough.

36. (New) A device as defined in claim 35 wherein the filter is disposable.

37. (New) A device as claimed in claim 33 wherein the fibres pressed into a predetermined shape are disposed proximate a lowest portion of the vessel.

38. (New) A device as defined in claim 37 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for retaining liquid solvents within the vessel during chemical processes and for allowing extraction of solvents for replacement or substitution thereof during processing.

39. (New) A device as defined in claim 38 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for digestion processes.

40. (New) A device as defined in claim 37 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for retaining liquid solvents within the vessel during chemical processes and for allowing extraction of solvents for replacement or substitution thereof between processing steps.

TO 97-0460 2634350

41. (New) A device as defined in claim 40 wherein the pressed fibres of the vessel are useful for digestion processes.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 18 and claims 23 through 25 have been cancelled and new claims 26 through 41 have been added.

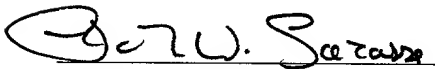
Claims 19 through 22 and claims 26 through 41 are in the case.

New claims 26 through 41 have been added to clearly recite inventive aspects of the present invention. The new claims 26 through 41 do not add new subject matter.

Formal drawings are submitted herewith for the Examiner's review. No changes have been made to the drawings.

It is now believed that the divisional application of United States Patent Application No. 09/362,697 is in condition for allowance and early action to this end is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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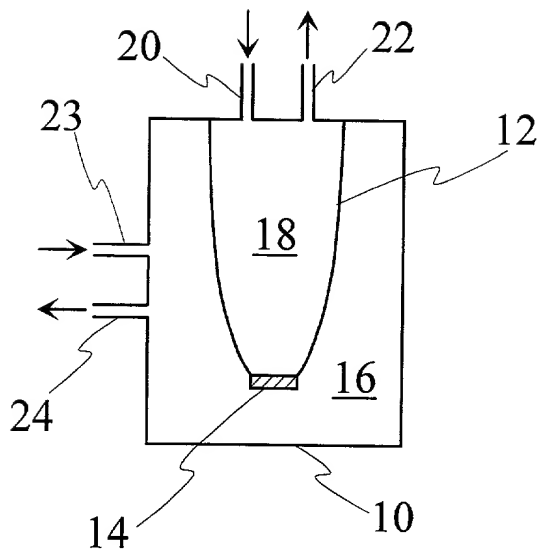


Fig. 1

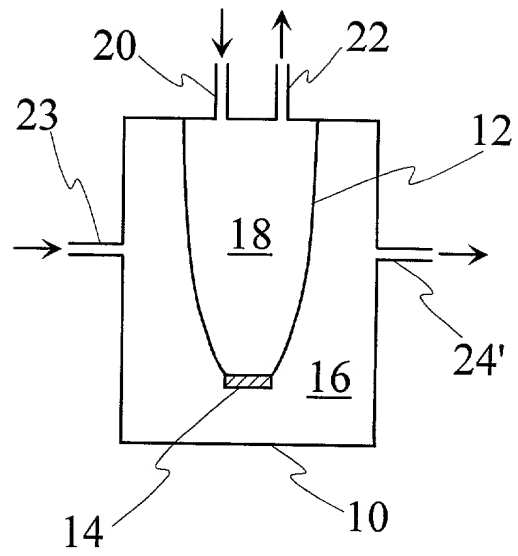


Fig. 2

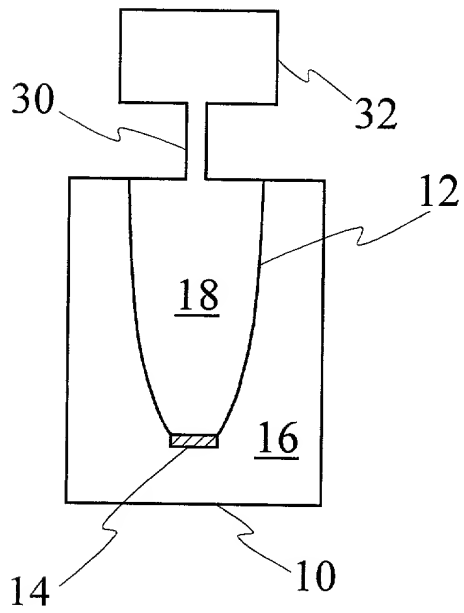


Fig. 3

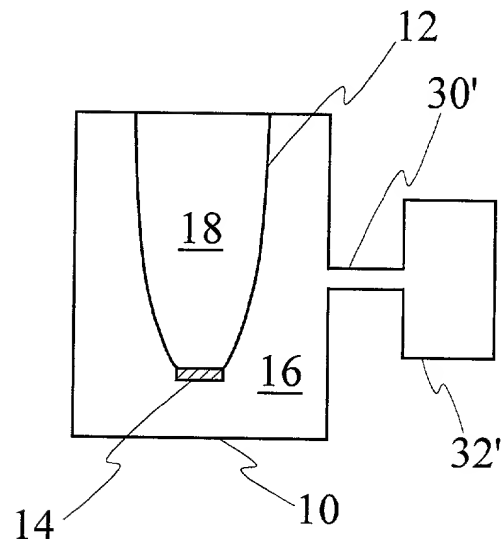


Fig. 4

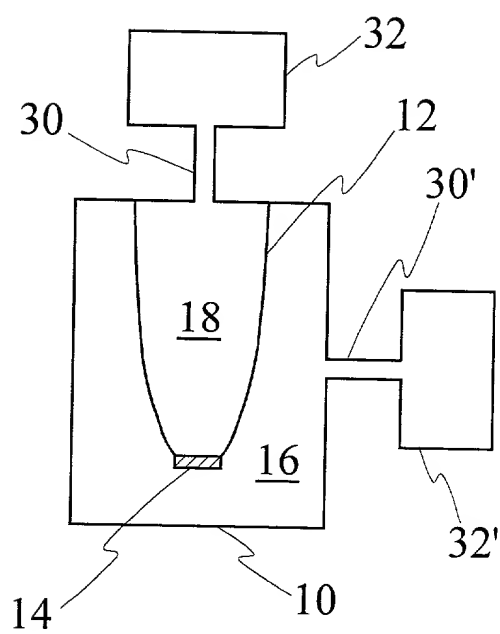


Fig. 5

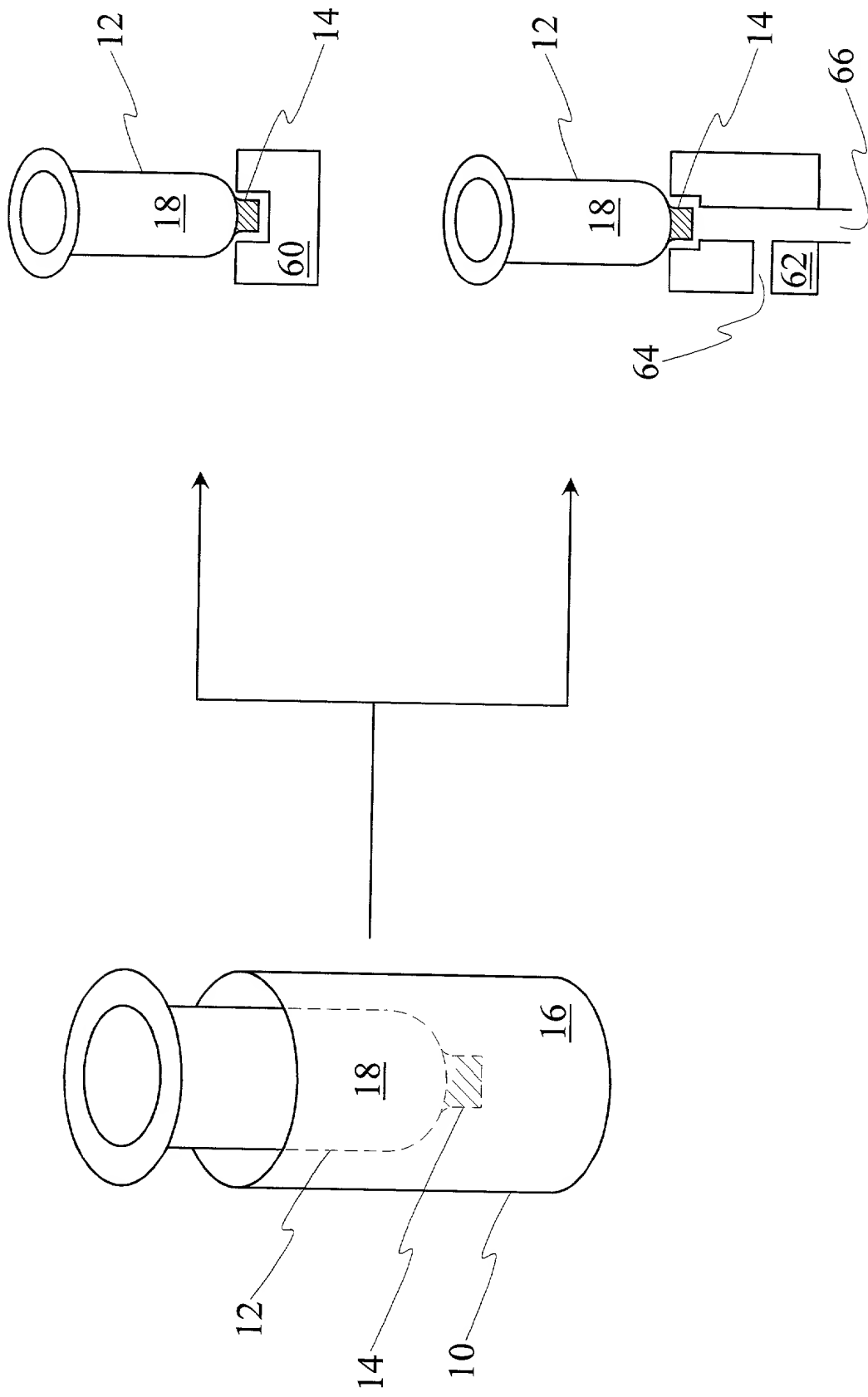


Fig. 6